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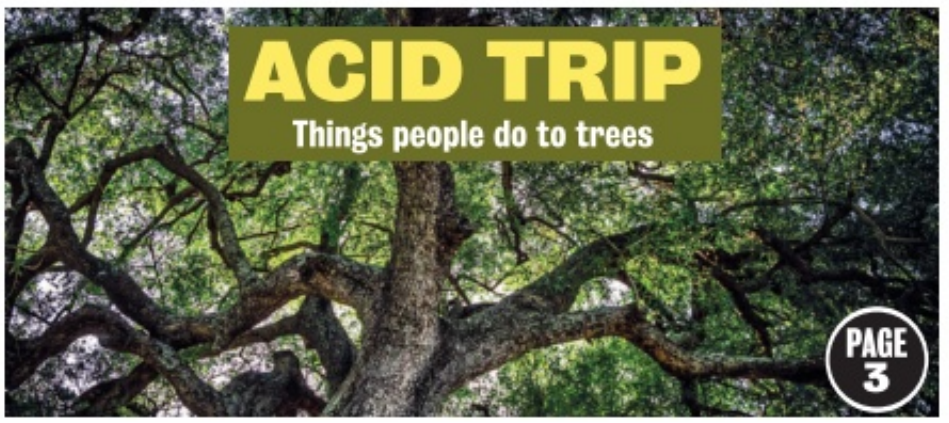
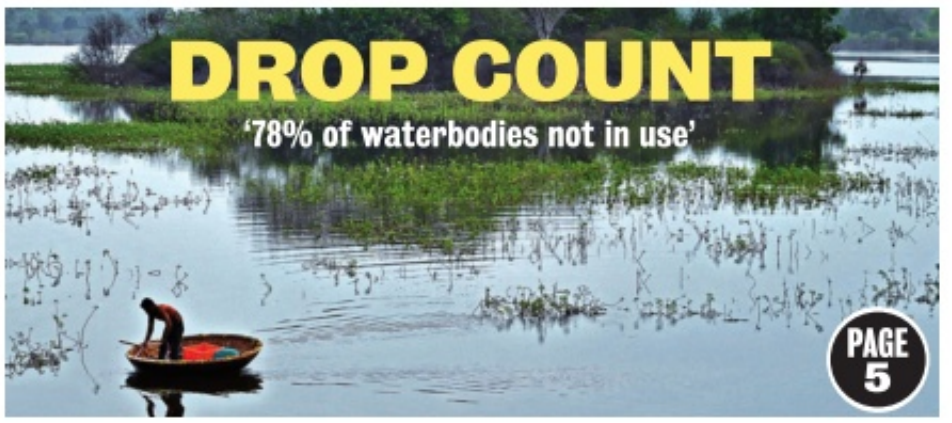
Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 70% Partly cloudy Sensex 61,112 | Nifty 18,065 | Gold 59,878 | Silver 73,928 | Dollar 81.78 | Euro 90.02 | GBP 102.25





As per state police data of 2023, in 56 instances of rape, crime committed by person familiar to victim

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW

Just 3 persons unknown to victim charged for crime this year

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In most cases of heinous crimes committed in the state, the accused is someone known to the victim. In 2023, according to Karnataka state police data, as many as in 56 instances of rape, the crime was committed by a known person to the victim, as compared to just three unknown persons charged for rape.

As per the data, four rapes were committed by neighbours, four were committed by relatives and two rapes were committed by the husband in the first two months of 2023.

As of February 2023, the state had recorded 86 rape cases in which only 3.4% rapes were committed by unknown people.

Similarly, in murder cases, four people were killed 'for personal vendetta or enmity, six for adultery and eight for revenge in Karnataka'.

Attempted murder cases registered for property disputes stood at 23 and 19 for personal vendetta, for a span of two months.

The state recorded 426 cases of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

> **"The major reason for the accused to be a person known to the victim has to be accessibility**
>
> — Supriya Mehta, lawyer

Grasp of the wasp

Inactive nests of paper wasps on campus much higher than active nests, researchers find

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Researchers and students at St Joseph's University found the number of inactive nests of paper wasps' on campus is much higher compared to active nests.

The study undertaken in December 2022 looked at nest counts alongside the number of individuals, eggs, and larvae inside 73 paper wasp nests located at nine different spots on the campus.

While two species of paper wasps were identified, as many as 42 nests of these pollinators were found to be inactive.

"We have taken up fauna projects whereby we are documenting all fauna biodiversity on the campus. This project will not only record animal biodiversity but will also provide exposure to our students. We have documented birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects, and recording paper wasps' nests was a part of the bigger project. During the study, we observed a total of 73 nests, out of which, only 31 nests were found to be active," said M Jayashankar, head of the department of zoology, School of Life Sciences, St Joseph's University.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 All about the community

The monthly conversation circles for women will discuss different topics that affect us as a community. The sharing of perspectives can help us figure out new paradigms, showing us we are not alone as we journey into a better place mentally and spiritually. This is an evolving circle which offers a safe sharing ground, a friendship which engages in meaningful conversations and a community that cares. **Where: Lahe Lahe When: 30th April 4-6 pm**

02 Inner discovery

The Shakti Cirque Gathering, a transformative workshop designed exclusively for women. If you're feeling overwhelmed, stuck, or struggling to tap into your inner strength and courage, you're not alone. Many women face similar challenges in today's fast-paced world, and that's why they are here to help. Through a combination of ancient wisdom from the Shakta tradition, powerful women's listening circle, Shakti dance and movement meditations, and guided Shakti visualisations, one will embark on a journey of inner healing, transformation, and self-discovery. **Where: Bangalore Creative Circus When: April 30, 5 pm - 8 pm; Contact: 88001 60184**

03 Classic moves

Madhulita Mohapatra, a renowned Odissi dancer, is all set to captivate art lovers with her rhythmic footwork, intricate hand gestures & exceptional abhinaya skills in her upcoming Odissi dance performance on Sunday. This performance is part of Chhau Dance Festival presented by Shreshtha Heritage Foundation & Govt. Chhau Dance Centre (Jharkhand) organised in memory of pioneering Seraikella Chhau artiste & guru Padma Shri Pandit Gopal Prasad Dubey who passed away in the month of November last year 2022. **Where: Kondajji Basappa Auditorium, Palace Road; When: April 30, 5 pm**

This summer, beware of chickenpox, teens

Doctors report surge in cases of individuals who are vaccinated as well

Sridhar Vivan
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Dhrupal, a sixth-grade student, recently contracted chickenpox and did not isolate himself from his family. Consequently, his five-year-old brother and his 35-year-old mother also got infected with the virus.

Although chickenpox is primarily reported among children under the age of five, doctors are now seeing a trend of even adolescents contracting the virus during the summer season. This infection is seasonal and tends to rise in the summer months. Additionally, doctors have reported cases of vaccinated individuals getting infected with chickenpox.

Chickenpox is a highly itchy skin rash with red blisters, and symptoms appear within 10 to 21 days after coming in contact with someone with the virus. It is a contagious infection caused by the Varicella zoster virus (VZV), mainly affecting children.

Dr Brunda (Consultant – Internal Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital) said, "I recently treated a 25-year-old adult with chickenpox who had not received the vaccine.

The patient experienced a high fever and widespread rash that lasted for several days. While the patient eventually recovered, this case underscores the importance of vaccination and highlights the potential dangers of these diseases."

She said that there has been an increasing trend in the number of chickenpox and measles cases over the past few days.

Health professionals say staying up to date on vaccinations and checkups is highly recommended for children and adults

"While these diseases were once thought to be on the decline, we are seeing resurgence in cases among both children and adults. This trend is a cause for concern as it poses a significant threat to public health. People with Diabetes Mellitus are immunocompromised and more prone to such diseases. One of the most concerning aspects of this trend is the fact that even vaccinated adults are being affected. While vaccines are highly effective, they are not foolproof, and breakthrough cases can still occur. Therefore, it is important that both children and adults stay up to date on their vaccinations. On average, we are seeing a higher number of cases compared to previous months. The causes of this trend are multifactorial and can include a lack of vaccination or incomplete vaccination schedules, as well as travel-related cases."

Symptoms of chickenpox and measles can include fever, rash, and flu-like symptoms. Prevention is key, and individuals can protect themselves and others by staying up to date on their vaccinations and avoiding contact with infected individuals.

Meanwhile, Dr Neha Mishra (Consultant - Infectious Diseases, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road) said that the main methods of transmission for both measles and chickenpox were respiratory discharge and close contact with the lesion. "Measles is known to cause very severe disease among children who are not vaccinated. Both viruses can cause severe diseases associated with complications in adults.

The measles vaccine is a part of the childhood immunization program and it is a well-run government program across the country in a widespread way. In case, some child has missed the MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccine, they should be screened and given the catch-up vaccination.

The positive thing about both viruses is that they can be easily prevented by the efficacious vaccine which is available. On the other hand, chickenpox vaccination is not something that is part of a program, but most children naturally get immunity to the virus. In case the natural immunity for chickenpox is lacking for any reason, these children/adults can be screened and vaccinated for the same.

This vaccination can even be given to adults if the childhood vaccination schedule is incomplete. Both vaccines are efficacious and one can talk to their doctor regarding the availability, risk associated, and safety of these, she said.

Search and seizure on Byju's CEO's premises

Of three premises, two are commercial and one residential, says ED

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has conducted searches and seizure action at three premises in Bengaluru in the case of Raveendaran Byju (inset) and his company 'Think & Learn Private Limited' under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Of the three premises, ED said two are commercial and one residential. The company runs a popular online education portal under the name of Byju's. During the search and seizure action, various incriminating documents and digital data were seized.

According to the ED, searches also revealed that the company has received foreign direct investment to the tune of Rs 28,000 crore (approximately) during the period from 2011 to 2023. Further, ED said the company has also remitted Rs 9,754 crore (approximately) to various foreign jurisdictions during the same period in the name of overseas direct investment.

"The company has booked around Rs 944 crore in the name of advertisement and marketing expenses including the amount remitted to foreign jurisdiction. The company has not prepared its financial statements since the financial year 2020-21 and has not got the accounts, audited which is mandatory.

Hence, the genuineness of the figures provided by the company are being cross-examined from the banks," the ED said.

"The company has not prepared its financial statements since the financial year 2020-21 and has not got the accounts audited which is mandatory
– Directorate of Enforcement

The investigation against the education platform was initiated on the basis of various complaints received from various private persons. During the investigation conducted by the ED, several summonses were issued to the founder and CEO Raveendaran Byju, however, he always remained evasive and never appeared during the investigation. Further investigation is under progress, ED said. **– ANI**

Hope, after acid attacks

Urban conservationist on mission to rejuvenate tree after it is doused with acid

Activist Vijay Nishanth revives the tree in Jayanagar

Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A tree dying a slow death after being doused with acid constantly has been saved by an urban conservationist, Vijay Nishanth, popularly known as the 'tree doctor'.

After local residents informed Nishanth that acid was being poured onto the trunk and around the roots of a Pongam tree situated on Jayanagar 36th cross, he visited the spot and treated it.

"We have provided the tree with a root rejuvenation solution, fertiliser and have been consistently watering it. The leaves have died out right before the fruiting season but I've examined some sap. It is in a bad condition but we are hoping for it to be rejuvenated," Nishanth said.

He noted that residents resort to such measures to kill a tree for varying reasons – to secure a parking space or to get rid of constant falling leaves. Commercial establishments do so when their advertising boards are not clearly visible due to spread out branches and even when they cause hindrances during construction.

Nishanth said that in 2015, a family was found to be pouring acid on a tree in front of their house situated in Vijayanagar after an astrologer advised that it was bad for vastu. A case has been registered with the jurisdiction police along with the help of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) officials against unknown persons and is currently being investigated.

In 2017, over 17 cases of pouring acid into tree trunks had been registered, out of which trees were charred in 14 instances. "If anyone causes damage either to the tree or the branches of the tree, it is the duty of the forest wing of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike as well as the Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force to take appropriate legal action with the assistance of the jurisdictional police," the Lokayukta's order to the forest cell following the cases had said. Last year, the BBMP forest cell filed a complaint against unknown persons for poisoning a 35-year-old tree in the BTM layout.

> **These activities will destroy the trees' health and growth. This is a punishable offence as per the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, Section 8, 1976**
>
> –a BBMP order

In September 2021, the municipal body BBMP had directed shop owners, cable operators, advertisers to ensure no boards, lights or stapling papers are put up on the branches of the trees within city limits. "These activities will destroy the trees' health and growth. This is a punishable offence as per the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, Section 8, 1976," the order had read.

Taken for a ride?

In Bengaluru, manoeuvring through traffic is a task in itself. In videos on social media, two-wheelers are seen using innovative methods to navigate the traffic. In one such video, vehicles can be seen inside a boring tunnel being installed at a construction site.

With netizens claiming it to be from the Bellandur area in the city, a Bangalore Mirror correspondent visited the area to find more details.

A traffic police official from Bellandur traffic police station said, "Currently in Bellandur, there is no such boring tunnel pipe. This viral video seems to be of another city. We request people not to circulate videos without information about the location."

People on social media called the boring tunnel pipe as 'India's first hyperloop at Bellandur Bangalore".

The video seems to be of another city and not Bellandur in Bengaluru. **–BMB**

Student stabbed at college festival

An engineering student was stabbed to death during a college festival in Bengaluru, police said.

According to police, the incident occurred at the Reva University College festival on Friday night.

A fight broke out between two groups of students which saw some stab the victim, Bhaskar Jetty (22), police said.

Though he was rushed to the hospital, he succumbed. "We have registered a case and investigation is on to trace the murderers," a police officer said. **–PTI**

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T&C APPLY

Amid crude price drop, B'luru fuel stays static

Petrol is sold for Rs 101.94/litre, and diesel, Rs 89.89/litre in the city

| Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

File photo of people at a petrol bunk in the city. On Thursday, oil prices dipped to $78/barrel as against $80/barrel during the beginning of April; many cities in the country have comparatively lower fuel prices

Bengalureans have once again urged the Centre to reduce fuel prices in the city as crude prices are decreasing in the international market. Fuel prices have almost been static in the city for around 12 months. On Thursday, oil prices dipped to $78/barrel as against $80/barrel during the beginning of April. Petrol is sold for Rs 101.94/litre, and diesel, Rs 89.89/litre in Bengaluru. Many cities in the country have comparatively lower fuel prices. For example, a litre of petrol is sold for Rs 84.10 in Port Blair, Rs 93.23 in Itanagar, and Rs 96.18 in Jalandhar. However, there are other cities where petrol prices are much higher - like Jaipur (Rs 108.48 per litre), Hyderabad (Rs 109.66 per litre), and Bhopal (Rs 108.65 per litre).

"Whenever crude prices increase, oil companies try to increase fuel prices on a daily basis. However, when crude is trading low in the international market, the prices are still not being decreased. The Centre claims that oil prices are unregulated and changed on a daily basis. However, the prices are static for so many months even when fuel prices are decreasing elsewhere", said Jagannath Kumar, a businessman.

Ananth Y, a college student, said that inflation is catching up and if fuel prices are reduced, people can expect reduction in prices of other commodities as well.

The Centre has a different take. Union Minister of State for petrol and natural gas, Rameswar Teli, said, "Prices of petrol and diesel in the country have been market-determined with effect from June 26, 2010 and October 19, 2014, respectively. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decisions on pricing of petrol and diesel. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not increased prices of petrol and diesel since April 6 2022." Due to high volatility and elevated prices of crude oil, most countries have been reeling under high petrol and diesel prices, he further said, with some examples.

For instance, in the US, the prices of petrol and diesel increased by about 10.8 and 35.2 per cent, respectively between January 2022 to January 2023. Spain had increased petrol prices by 12.9 per cent and diesel prices by 27.4 per cent.

> **"Prices of petrol and diesel in the country have been market-determined with effect from June 26, 2010 and October 19, 2014, respectively**
> – Rameswar Teli, union minister

"However, in India, fuel prices were increased only by 1.4 per cent in case of petrol and 3.4 per cent in case of diesel, during the same period," he said.

There has been a slight increase in the number of vehicles in the city that use CNG. However, the consistent rise in CNG prices is also affecting people. Nevertheless, the Centre defends the price hike, stating that it was marginal compared to the international market.

Teli said, "While gas prices on the international gas indices (JKM) increased by up to 228 per cent between January 2021 and February 2023, the CNG price increase in India was limited to about 83 per cent."

There has been a slight drop in CNG prices recently.

Everything else is background noise

Modi roadshow brings daily life to standstill for many

Prime minister Modi held a rally covering three constituencies of Yeshwanthpur, Dasarahalli, and RR Nagar on Saturday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city badly affected the Bengaluru traffic between 2 pmand 7:30 pm on Saturday. Residents claim that they were stuck in the congestion for hours, and some even complain that ambulances were not allowed to pass through.

Supriya, a resident of Ejipura, was stuck on Tumakuru Road for three hours. "I had to travel for important work, but then I didn't even reach the venue on time because of the heavy traffic. There was an ambulance right in front of me, and it was not able to get out of the traffic. I saw people coming out of the ambulance, and they seemed paranoid. I don't get how a politician, even if he is the PM, is allowed to have a roadshow and create traffic chaos. Also, traffic management should have been better by the traffic police as well," she said.

Another person, Tejas Chandra, took to Twitter to complain about how it took him hours to reach the Bangalore University signal from Bidadi. "Modi's roadshow is in Sunkadakatte, but at least 30 km in and around Sunkadakatte was affected. So many leaders have been visiting the state since the start of April, but this big man comes with so many problems. So many people are agitated with this amount of traffic," he said.

In another case, the police stopped a bride who was going from Ramanagara to Sunkadakatte. According to sources, her reception was scheduled on Saturday, and the police stopped her car in Nagarabhavi. Later, the bride had to take a bike with her aunt, which was later stopped again as her aunt was carrying a kalasha. The police stopped them to inspect it. However, when people gathered around the bride, the police finally let her go.

In a similar incident, a groom whose wedding was scheduled on Magadi Road was not allowed to pass by the police. But after convincing the policemen, he was finally allowed to go.

— Ahna Prakash

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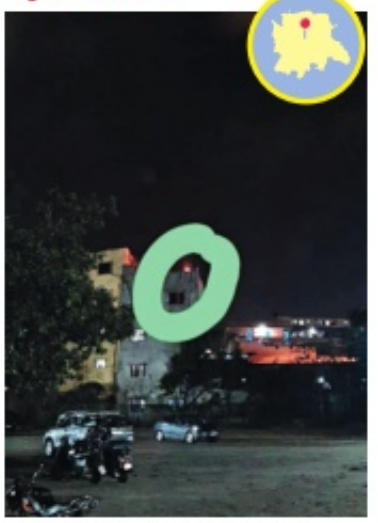
Air pollution?

Mysuru Road



This building near Mysuru Road metro station looks like it is polluting the air.

Uncleared trash

Veera Pillai street

Garbage has not been cleared in Veera Pillai street.

Unclaimed scooter

Jayanagar

This scooter has been parked for more than six-eight months in 4th block, Jayanagar.

THE SUNDAY READ

Counting drops

Census reveals almost 78% of state's water bodies are not in use due to reasons such as having dried up, siltation, salinity, complete destruction

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

According to the first-ever 'Water Bodies Census' report released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Karnataka has recorded 26,994 water bodies, which include lakes, ponds, tanks, and reservoirs. Of these, 97.1% (26,205) are in rural areas and the remaining 2.9% (789) are in urban areas.

However, out of all the water bodies recorded, only around 22% (5,874) are 'in use'. The remaining 78.2% (21,120) are 'not in use' for various reasons such as drying up, siltation, salinity, destruction beyond repair, etc.

As per the report, while 211 of these water bodies in the state have been destroyed beyond repair, 3,204 have dried up, 2,357 have been rendered useless due to construction, 96 are not in use due to contamination by industrial effluents and 1,373 are inutile due to heavy siltation. According to the census report, as many as 13,843 water bodies are bootless due to 'other' reasons.

When it comes to the total number of lakes, while the ministry's report has placed Karnataka in the third spot (1,892 lakes) after Tamil Nadu and Bihar, only 38 of these lakes (2%) are functional.

Environment researchers and experts say the census report points to the issue of authorities and regulatory bodies, responsible for maintaining these wetlands, not discharging their duties.

"The fact that many water bodies are non-functional due to industrial effluent, construction, or other reason related to maintenance, implies that the government agencies responsible for maintaining these wetlands are not discharging their duties. For instance, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) should have ensured that the 96 water bodies mentioned in the report are not rendered useless due to industrial effluents. The regulatory body should have taken action against these industries through the 'Polluters Pay principle' and should have closed them down," said Dr TV Ramachandra, Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Land-eaters

The census report also highlights that as many as 948 water bodies out of all enumerated in the state have been encroached on. While 74.7% (708) encroached water bodies are tanks, 19% (180) are ponds and the remaining 6.3% (60) encroached water bodies are lakes, reservoirs, water conservation schemes/ percolation tanks/ check dams, and other bodies.

This is after the dominance of public authorities in the ownership. Nearly 94% (25,308) of the bodies in Karnataka are publicly owned, compared with only 6% (1,686) of privately owned bodies.

"Since most of the bodies are public, the onus of any kind of damage falls on the state government and agencies responsible for their maintenance. While the census has given a lot of useful information, the issues that have rendered the water bodies non-functional need to be studied in depth and hold respective authorities/agencies liable. For instance, if the issue is water quality, KSPCB should be held responsible. Most of the issues are due to poor maintenance of the water bodies," said V Ramprasad, founder, Friends of Lakes.

211 of these water bodies destroyed beyond repair, 3,204 dried up, 2,357 rendered useless due to construction, 96 not in use due to contamination by industrial effluents and 1,373 due to heavy siltation

Environment researchers say the way forward is to rejuvenate these wetlands through the ecosystem approach.

"We have conducted studies that show if waterbodies are rejuvenated and maintained with native vegetation in the watershed, they are healthier and retain water throughout the year. The ecosystem approach should be taken up to rejuvenate. They should be decontaminated and re-connected with other wetlands. Moreover, at least 30-40% of the watershed must have green cover and trees of native species," said Dr Ramachandra.

"The KSPCB should have ensured that the 96 water bodies mentioned in the report are not rendered useless due to industrial effluents. The regulatory body should have taken action against these industries through the 'Polluters Pay principle' and should have shut them down.
–Dr TV Ramachandra, CES, IISc

Hash-tag crickets

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the first-ever radio telemetry study on insects done in India, researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have looked inside the interesting world of bush crickets.

During the study, researchers tagged the crickets, also called katydids, with tiny tracking devices. The devices were attached above the wing base of 43 crickets using non-toxic glue to observe patterns of predation by bats on katydids.

"Earlier studies on insect movements were done by mark-recapture, where we mark insects and try to see how far they have moved approximately. Mark recapture was not possible for this insect, because they live on tree canopies and recapture probabilities will be low. Since we observed that these radio transmitters don't affect their abilities to fly, walk, call, mate, or even lay eggs, we decided to use it to understand their movement patterns," said Kasturi Saha, one of the co-authors of the study.

The insects were tagged in the daytime when they appeared sleepy and inactive. After tagging, researchers then waited for a few hours to make sure that the glue dried and their wing movement was not hindered before releasing them. As many as 43 males and females were picked for the study after researchers observed some interesting patterns of predation by bats on them.

The findings suggest that a significant number of females are being eaten by predators. Researchers found that females tend to move 1.5 times more often and 1.8 times farther than males, which may make them more vulnerable to predation by bats. Females might also be moving in search of food, mates, egg laying sites.

Researchers also observed that females are almost double the size and weight of males, which could make them more detectable during movement. Also, the females could be more nutritious and preferred by bats.

"We presented free-flying whistler females and males to the bats in a large, outdoor cage and found that bats approach both males and females equally. Females also escaped from being captured more often than males. This did not answer why bats are eating more females, but flight could still be the reason if females are flying more than males," said Saha.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

SUMMER DELIGHT

Raw mangoes ripening on a tree

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Vijita Asher**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

A whirl of chaotic traffic

Traffic congestion at underpass junction in Budigere Cross irks residents; despite complaining, no solution has been found

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The residents of the Budigere Cross area highlighted the issue of frequent traffic congestions at the underpass that last for more than an hour during peak hours, which causes a lot of inconvenience to the regular commuters and residents.

They pointed out that most of the time the underpass junction is not manned by traffic personnel, which results in deadlocks and takes time for the traffic to clear out.

This aside, a lot of heavy vehicles are parked on either side of Budigere Cross until Bommanahalli Junction and beyond, which defeats the purpose of road widening and causes a lot of inconvenience for vehicle users.

Residents added that they wrote a letter to the Hosakote traffic police station and asked for immediate intervention. They even met with the police and asked them to

Apart from the traffic at the underpass, there are service roads that remain congested

add traffic personnel to manage the traffic at the Cross underpass or help install traffic signals at the junction to help regulate the traffic easily. Moreover, they even asked to ban illegal heavy vehicle parking on either side of the road to ensure the safety of other vehicles.

Joji Joykutty, a resident of the area told Bangalore Mirror that the situation has been the same from the past two years, and the residents have been facing a huge problem.

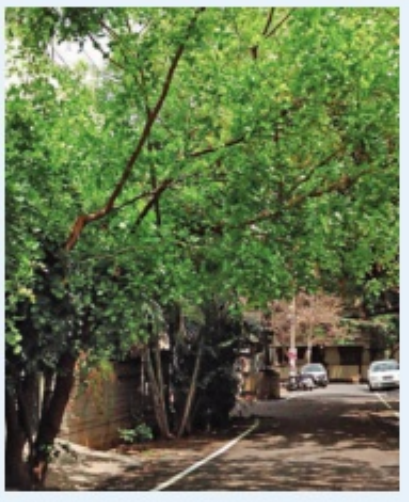
"There is a lack of traffic management at this junction, and when complaints are made, the traffic police officials state that they are understaffed. They have only around 20 officers who need to man many junctions. According to the police officers, the Hosakote and Avalahalli junctions see a lot of traffic on a daily basis and need officers to man these junctions. Hence, our junction is missed," he said.

"Apart from the traffic at the underpass, there are service roads that are totally congested due to the traffic coming from all directions. I have even made a map and submitted it to the police for alternatives that could help ease traffic, and I am waiting to hear back from them," he added. The underpass stands to be important as many people take this route to reach the airport.

"When residents come from Whitefield to the Kadugodi area or Seegehalli, it connects to the Madras highway. The commuters through the highway reach Devanahalli and further connect to the airport road. Hence, a large number of people use this stretch, causing severe congestion. The location has started to become like Silk Board junction with severe traffic congestion," a resident informed anonymously.

A lot of heavy vehicles are parked on either side of Budigere Cross

DID YOU KNOW?



BTM Layout stands for Byrasandra, Tavarekere and Madivala Layout. It is one of the most popular residential areas in Bengaluru. The area is known to nestle the popular Madiwala Lake, which is one of the biggest lakes in the city. The lake is a destination for migratory birds and a place for birding enthusiasts. BTM Layout is also noted for its proximity to the Outer Ring Road, which separates the 1st Stage of the area from the 2nd–6th Stages. It also has the BTM Football Club (BTMFC), which was established in 2009. The place is known to have easy access to other suburbs in the city like Koramangala, Shanti Nagar, JP Nagar, Jayanagar, HSR Layout, and more.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

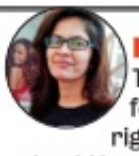
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Do you think the ban on plastics is an effective way to curb pollution and how?



Kshama H, BM Reader
The ban on plastic has not been effective so far. To curb the menace, rigorous awareness campaigns should be conducted, especially for street vendors who are unaware of the damage caused by plastic to the environment.

Daisy Sarma, BM Reader
Plastic bags are non-biodegradable and cause immense pollution in natural water bodies. By reducing the use of plastics, we can reduce garbage and ultimately curb pollution to a great extent.

Nanditha, BM Reader
Plastics are non-biodegradable substances and are the main cause of pollution worldwide. They cannot be decomposed or digested by any organism. Although plastics are less expensive, they have adverse effects on the environment.

Prabhakar, BM Reader
Plastics are made of crude oil and natural gas. When these particles enter the atmosphere, they create pollution that harms all living organisms. The plastic ban can create a healthy environment.

Kavya, BM Reader
Plastics travel through the air and are deposited in soil and water bodies. Marine organisms and humans who depend on marine life are in danger because these organisms consume plastics.

Praneetha, BM Reader
T Disposing of used covers in recycling bins is necessary, as directly dumping them in garbage does not solve the problem of plastic. Banning plastic can help reduce pollution and protect our ecosystem.

SPEAK TO US

Tell us how birds and stray animals can be helped during summer.
If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Bus-stop: Polls may affect BMTC service

BBMP officials dispute this, saying commute will be low

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With many buses being taken for election work, services are likely to be affected for the two days of the election. However, BBMP officials say that services are unlikely to be affected as the commute will be low.

According to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the Election Commission has requested 1,200 buses from Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and around 3,700 buses from KSRTC as of now. While the buses have not been pulled away from the fleet, there are likely to be fewer buses on May 9 and 10. The numbers are reflective of expected requirements of the days, but the numbers may vary, says BMTC.

A senior BMTC official told Bangalore Mirror, "They may take some buses for the election days. Now, around 10-20 buses have been taken. For May 9 and 10, there might be a requirement of 1,000-1,200 buses as per preliminary buses. However, the travel will be less due to offices being closed, and hence traffic will be less. Hence, services are unlikely to be affected."

However, bus activists are unhappy with the decision to pull buses from the existing fleet of insufficient buses. "Even in the past, when rallies have happened, we have been against the diversion of buses for such uses. The primary function of the government should be to meet the requirements of the people. It's callous to hire buses and take them away from the common man," said Shaheen Shasa of Bus Prayanikere Vedike.

File photo of a BMTC bus; the EC has requested 1,200 buses from BMTC, 3,700 from KSRTC

1,200 buses would amount to roughly 20 per cent of buses. This could drastically affect the daily livelihood of people. While parties have been talking about free bus services for women, they should also ponder about meeting the requirement of the missing number of buses, added Shasa.

> "The main role of the government should be to meet the requirements of the people. It's callous to hire buses and take them away from the common man
> – Shaheen Shasa, bus activist

Srinivas Alavilli of WRI India told BM that the move must be appreciated. He said people should recognise that the Election Commission understands the power of a bus. Instead of hiring 6,000 cars, they can hire 1,200 buses. If they had to replace the buses with cars, the cost would be high, he said.

"But this brings to the fore the need for more buses. Commuters can be inconvenienced for a day or two, but the shortage of buses affected lakhs of buses.

Without inconveniencing regular commuters, the Election Commission should consider hiring buses from private providers," he added.

BBMP to deliver voter slips to homes

Abhijeet Kabad
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The BBMP has released a circular stating that the elections will be happening on May 10. To raise awareness about it, voter slips will be distributed to citizens indicating the polling booth where they can cast their vote.

The voter slips will be distributed between April 29 and May 6 at people's homes. BBMP has requested people to stay at their homes during the distribution period.

Sameeksha Giridhar, a resident of Frazer town, said, "Circulating voter slips to citizens' homes is great. It should be done with utmost precautionary measures that keep citizens' safety as the top priority. Proper identification should be allotted to people circulating the slips.

The voter slips will be distributed between April 29 and May 6

Communicating this to the public is crucial to ensure the safety of the residents and avoid unfortunate events. A slot system could be employed that is convenient for the working class rather than a broad time frame."

Phani Srivatsa, a resident of Vijayanagar, said, "It's a good initiative by BBMP. It was done by political parties earlier, which was bad. As people cannot stay at home, this will likely help out the old people who are at home. BBMP should deliver the slips again to homes if they were locked."

Tushar Giri Nath, the District Electoral Officer, addressing the media, said that 5,000 NSS volunteers will raise awareness about voting among citizens and bring in an encouraging atmosphere. All areas have joined hands to work on the same. Resident welfare associations have also been grouped online through the presidents of these apartments from the start. "The Election Commission has ensured shade and chairs at the polling stations. We have also launched an app that shows real-time information about parking at polling booths. There will also be paid leaves for IT companies," he added.

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'Remain vigilant': EC to Karnataka poll machinery

The Election Commission has directed its chief electoral officer in poll-going Karnataka to ensure constant monitoring of ground situation and strengthen vigil over various social media platforms for prompt action against attempts to bribe or intimidate candidates and voters, sources said on Saturday.

The Commission's directive came after an audio clip was circulated on social media about an alleged attempt by BJP candidate from Chamarajanagar, V Somanna, to influence Mallikarjuna Swamy alias Alur Mallu of JD(S) to withdraw candidature by offering money and a government vehicle, sources said.

An FIR has been filed in the matter under Section 171E and 171 F of IPC in Town Police Station, Chamarajanagar, they said.

These sections deal with punishment for bribery and undue influence.

Ahead of the May 10 polls for which campaigning levels have gone up, the Commission has directed the CEO of Karnataka to ensure constant monitoring of ground situation and strengthen vigil over social media platforms for prompt and timely action against any attempt of bribery or intimidation to candidates and voters.

The state poll machinery has also been asked to remain vigilant against other corrupt practices.

Convictions in poll offences high in Karnataka

The Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka Manoj Kumar Meena has said that there were over 50 per cent convictions in the cases related to the model code of conduct (MCC) violations in the state.

According to an EC official, these convictions pertain to the elections that have taken place from 2013 to 2019.

Meena said the Election Commission (EC) closely follows the MCC violation cases, which made this happen.

"Karnataka is one of the states where the highest convictions have happened. Last time, 2,000-odd cases were booked. All were charge-sheeted, all were tried and I think more than 50 per cent of conviction we have done in Karnataka," Meena told PTI in an interview.

Explaining further, Meena said, "Decisions have happened in all the cases but in more than 50 per cent cases, the convictions were in our favour. It is a big number. I don't know about other states but it is very rare that in election-related cases convictions are happening."

Stating that Karnataka has done better, compared to other states, the CEO said the EC and his office follow the cases very closely.

Giving details about the high conviction rate, Meena said the cases are booked meticulously, and people are imparted training on their handling. –PTI

HEALTH TIP: Deep breathing exercises — the deliberate process of taking slow, even, deep breaths — can help restore normal breathing patterns and reduce anxiety

BangaloreMirror | 8
Sunday, April 30, 2023
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All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I really like a new girl who's joined the company where I work, but I don't know how to talk to her. She's my dream woman - tall, beautiful and clean living.
I've noticed she smiles at me, but I feel too shy to speak to someone as gorgeous as she is.
My sisters and their friends don't like her at all because she reported them when they were at school together, which led to all kinds of drama. They'd been calling her names, including making abusive and degrading remarks about her lack of personal hygiene, for example.
I remember her being very hurt at the time by what went on.
My sisters do not feel bad about it even now, and say she's self-centred, egotistical and snobby, and she wouldn't be interested in me because I'm not successful enough.
I would love to get to know her better and ask her out, but don't want to embarrass myself.
I'd love your opinion.

COLEEN SAYS

Well, it sounds like your sisters and their mates deserved to be reported at school and suffer the consequences.
Look, who do you want to please, your sisters or yourself ?
I think they need to grow up and move on.
In terms of connecting with this girl, give it time.
If you're on a coffee break at the same time, just chat; don't make it all about asking her out, as that puts pressure on you. Hopefully, once you're on friendly terms it'll feel natural to ask her out.
When we really like someone, it's natural to worry about rejection.
The most important message here is to live your own life, stand up to your sisters, and get them to take a look at themselves because their behaviour was unacceptable.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

MEAL, IN A JIFFY

The humble sandwich can make for a tasty meal if done creatively. These recipes are a mix of the exotic and unusual

GENTLEMAN SANDWICH

Prep Time: 10 mins Cooking Time: 12 Serves 4

Walnut Ciabatta bread, Roma Tomatoes, herb roasted pulled chicken, sour cream, and parmesan cheese -- this is a feast for royals!

INGREDIENTS
- Walnut Ciabatta bread: 4 slices
- Herb butter: 30 gm
- Tomato: 4
- Chicken, boneless: 200 gm
- salt: 20 gm
- Pepper: 20 gm
- Oregano: 20 gm
- Chopped garlic: 20 gm
- Chopped ginger: 20 gm
- Sour cream: 60 gm
- Parmesan cheese: 70 gm
- Lettuce: 40 gm

METHOD
- Marinate the boneless chicken with ginger garlic, salt pepper and herbs and grill the chicken in a preheated oven at 160 C. Toast the walnut ciabatta bread, then apply herb butter on top of it. Add all the ingredients one by one and serve hot with chilled juice.

GRIFFIN'S WONDERWITCH

A sourdough bread-based open sandwich with chicken liver pate, buffalo mozzarella, tomato, comfit onions, mesclun greens with chimichurri sauce served with cutting chai. This is comfort food at its simplest

INGREDIENTS
- Chicken liver pate: 15 gm salted butter, divided, 35gm minced shallot
- chicken liver: 250gm
- Kosher salt: to taste
- garlic minced: 1 clove
- capers: 20 gm
- dried thyme: 5gm
- 5gm anchovy paste: optional
- brandy: 30ml
- cream: 30ml
- Sour dough bread: 1 loaf
- Tomato: 200 gm
- Buffalo mozzarella: 250 gm
- Chimichurri sauce: 100 gm
- salt: 5gm
- white pepper: 5gm
- Mayonnaise: 50 gm
- Romaine lettuce: to garnish

METHOD
- Slice the sourdough bread and arrange on a plate. Spread a thin layer of mayonnaise on top of it. Then spread chicken liver pate on it. On top of it, add tomato slice and buffalo mozzarella, then place it on oven to toast it. Finally, garnish with fresh lettuce and chimichurri sauce. Serve hot with cutting chai.

Prep Time: 12 mins Cooking Time: 10 Serves 4

MELTING MOMENTS TOAST

A sandwich made of multigrain toast bread, caramelised banana, butterscotch sauce, sea salt, cream cheese, burrito cheese -- this one is for when you're feeling the blues

Prep Time: 15 mins Cooking Time: 12 Serves 4

INGREDIENTS
- Multigrain bread: 4
- Banana: 2
- Butter: 50 gm
- Butterscotch sauce: 50 gm
- Sea salt: 5gm
- Cream cheese: 50 gm
- Burrito cheese: 150 gm

METHOD
- Slice bananas and cook with caramel and keep aside. Toast the multigrain bread and apply a little butter on top. Place caramelised banana cream, cheese and sprinkle sea salt on top of it, Place on a preheated oven the sandwich and serve hot with cold juice.

FLAT ON BATTON

Rye and oregano Za'atar flatbread, Baton carrots, zucchini, bell peppers, tomato pesto and mozzarella cheese topped with balsamic reductions, this sandwich is perfect for a quick meal

Prep Time: 18 mins Cooking Time: 15 Serves 4

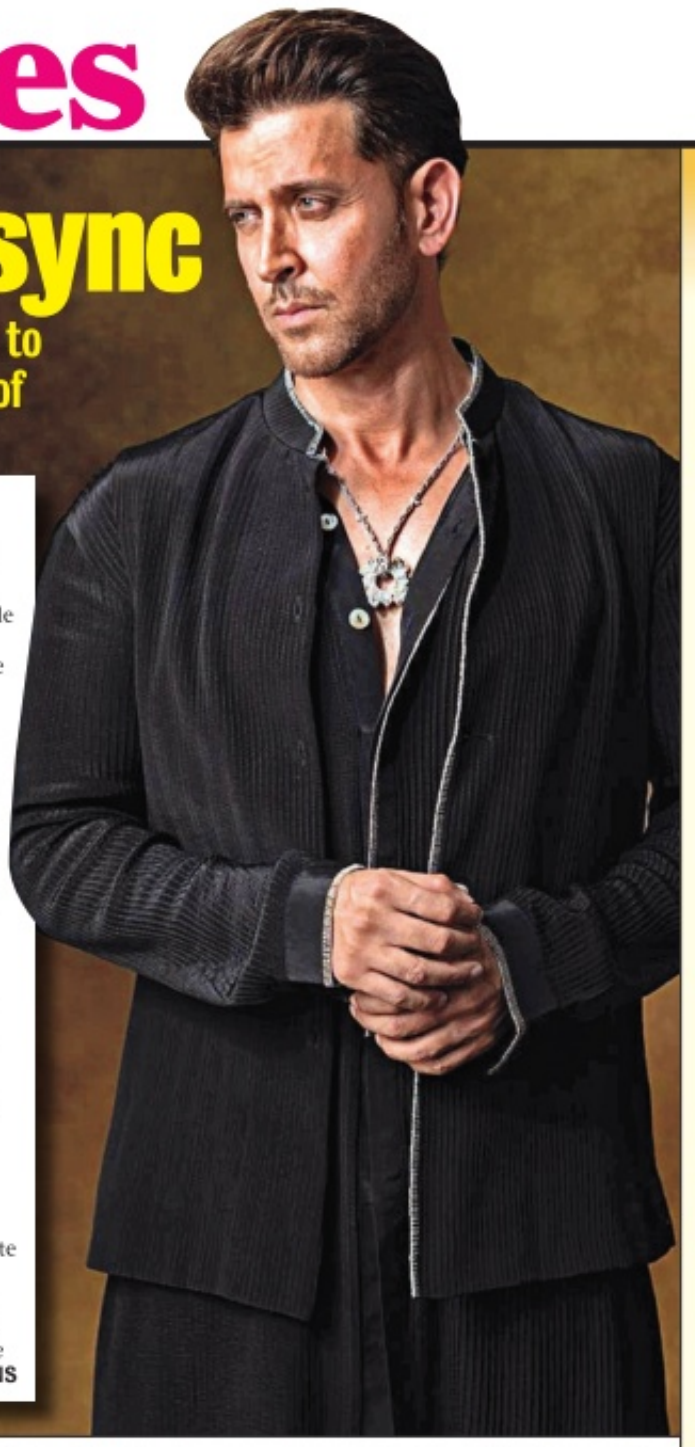
INGREDIENTS
- Rye and Oregano Za'atar flatbread: 1
- Tomato Pesto: 100 gm
- Baton cut carrots, bell pepper, zucchini: 200 gm
- Mozzarella cheese: 100 gm
- Balsamic reduction: 15 gm
- extra virgin olive oil: 30 gm

METHOD
- Cut all the vegetables into baton stick size. Apply tomato pesto on top of the bread, then place all the vegetables and put mozzarella cheese and bake in a pre-heated oven for eight mins. Serve hot and enjoy.

by Chef Sudipto Ray, Executive Chef, Boozy Griffin, Marathahalli

Move in sync

Hrithik reveals he wants to be able to nail the style of dancing with a partner



Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan spoke about a dancing style he wishes to learn and said that it is "partner work" he is terrible at.

Hrithik said: "I've been terrible in partner work. I feel relaxed when it's just me, but when it's partner work, there is a certain synchronising and coordinating, there's beauty in that. I have never been able to achieve that. I am very fascinated with Ballet. Just the long lines, the expanse and flight of it."

"I had the opportunity in Guzaarish to train in the dance form and it was an incredible experience. It was like a ball and I was holding the ball and swirling. During the take, I was not able to get three turns - you know, the pirouettes. Finally, after two hours, we had lunch, and then we tried again. In a single take, somehow it happened."

Hrithik also revealed that some of the signature dance steps he enjoyed throughout his career are The Bang Bang title track, Ghungroo from War and It's Magic from Koi Mil Gaya.

Speaking about his way of working, Hrithik said: "It's always about the process. I have a favourite process. Anybody who fits in the process, we create amazing things! The process is working with no egos, absolute communication, no feeling bad. And if you're feeling bad, express it. Be honest and work hard. Give me time to work hard. —IANS

The key lies in the timing

RAGHAVENDRA STORES

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Santosh Ananddram
- **ACTORS** Jaggesh, Swetha Srivatsav, Dattatreya, Ravishankar Gowda, Achyuth Kumar, Mithra
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 104 minutes

The movie deals with the problems of people who fail to find a suitable life partner even after turning 40. The film starts with one prospective bride rejecting Hayavadana (Jaggesh) who works as a cook-cum-supplier at Raghavendra Stores owned by his father (Dattatreya). The more Hayavadana tries to impress prospective brides, the more they reject him. Even his relative Subbalakshmi refuses to marry him. Kumar (Achyuth Kumar), a candidate for the Assembly elections, tries to organise a mass marriage function for 25 couples.

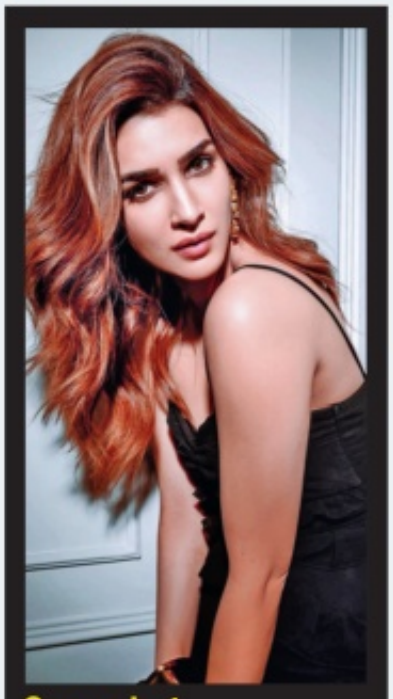
Meanwhile, Hayavadana happens to meet Vaijayanthi (Shwetha Srivatsav), a Carnatic vocalist, at a wedding reception to which Raghavendra Stores is assigned to do catering. He saves Vaijayanthi from an embarrassing situation. Later, Vaijayanthi marries Hayavadana but an astrologer advises the couple to maintain distance for three days. Without informing his father, Hayavadana goes to a resort along with Vaijayanthi but ends up in a peculiar situation due to the political developments in the state which is known for resort politics.

Hayavadana's father comes to know that his son and daughter-in-law are compelled to maintain distance. He arranges a honeymoon trip for the couple. Later the couple comes to know that they cannot become parents as they have married at a later age. What happens to the couple is what the film is all about.

As usual, Jaggesh maintains his inimitable style of dialogue delivery, body language and gestures. He even uses uddina vada to peer at women. Swetha Srivatsav looks pretty. Ravishankar Gowda's dialogues are good. Mithra, as a mute person who marries a deaf woman, provides good support. His acting is funny and will elicit a few giggles.

Director Santosh Ananddram deserves appreciation for handling the megaphone with aplomb.

It is worth a watch for the whole family. —Y Maheswara Reddy



Super hot

Kriti Sanon's glamorous photoshoots that will blow your mind

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Chris Pratt drops Marvel's first 'F-bomb'

Hollywood star Chris Pratt is "proud" to be the first person to drop an F-bomb in a Marvel movie.

The actor, 43, attended the world premiere of Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 in Los Angeles Thursday, where he spoke with Variety about using the expletive in its entirety for the first time ever within the superhero franchise, reports People.

"Yes, I do drop the first F-bomb. Take that Samuel L Jackson!" Pratt said, referencing how fellow Marvel costar Jackson, 74, is known for using the F-word in his movie career.

As Pratt's co-star Elizabeth Debicki asked if the curse word was in the script, the actor replied: "No, it was not. It was not scripted."

"Everyone's been trying to improv F-bombs for 10 different years ... and finally one made it in," Pratt continued.

"Usually when you start dropping F-bombs in like an improv scenario, it's really your indication to the filmmaker that you'd like to move on a" and they actually put it into the film, so that's pretty good. I'm really proud. I did it!"

Pratt echoed similar sentiments about using the curse word while making a guest appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live! Thursday.

The Motion Picture Association film rating system allows for one F-word in order to remain PG-13 instead of R. GOTG Vol. 3 is rated PG-13 for "intense sequences of violence and action, strong language, suggestive/drug references and thematic elements." —IANS

Egg-freezing: Pains and perils

Priyanka Chopra, who became mother to baby girl Malti Marie via surrogacy last year, recently opened up on freezing her eggs and how the entire process is painful and extremely difficult.

In a recent podcast, Priyanka said that when she was in her early 30s, she decided to freeze her eggs. She added that she was filming Quantico at that time. The actor further revealed that the process is painful, and you have to give yourself injections over a month. Not only that, with the medicines, you get hormonal ups and downs, which makes you feel insane and bloated.

The actor however added that even with all these issues, the procedure is worth for women, who for whatever reasons, cannot have kids in their 30s. She also added that the process is fairly expensive, so one must save up for it.

Priyanka will soon be seen in the movie Love Again opposite Sam Heughan. She will also scheduled to star in Farhan Akhtar's Jee Le Zaraa alongside Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. — ETimes

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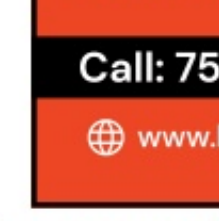

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Knowingly or unknowingly...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cruelty by husband under section 498(A) of IPC, along with 15 dowry death cases.

"The major reason for a murder or rape accused to be person known to the victim has to be accessibility. Someone who knows the family has easy access to the victim; no one will doubt them... There are multiple cases where children were raped and then murdered by a neighbour or family member," said advocate Supriya Mehta.

She added that when the crime is committed by their own family members, people tend to not report it; they avoid approaching the police.

"This happens a lot in POCSO cases where children are blackmailed by relatives to not inform others or in many cases parents are embarrassed to report about the incident," Mehta told BM.

BT Venkatesh, former state public prosecutor, said: "People often have a motive to commit a crime like murder. Why would someone have a motive against a stranger. There could be multiple reasons — the accused might be an opportunist or he did it for money; but whatever the reason maybe, in these cases it is difficult to find the evidence.

There are two types of evidence — oral and documentary. In most of these cases, there is only oral evidence because family members try to protect the accused. The court can't put someone behind bars if there is no documentary evidence."

Women's rights activist Mamata Yajman said it is important to do adult counselling and also educate children in school about sexuality.

"It all comes down to trust; in many cases it is the classmate or the neighbour that commits rape. Parents trust their child to hang out with the classmate/neighbour as the child has known them for years.

In many cases, the child is unable to understand that something wrong is happening to them, as there is a lack of proper awareness. If the teacher doesn't provide education to the children about consent and laws, how do we expect them to speak up," she wondered.

How wasps on campus are doing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The nests were found on different substrata — leaves of the plant, concrete walls of the campus, and even on metal surfaces. The general behaviour pattern of the wasps such as sitting and grooming, raising antennae, raising wings, being absent from the nest, and foraging were observed.

Researchers said paper wasps are a matriarchal society, whereby they tend to break and form new colonies regularly. Inmates of a colony break the existing colonies and make new ones in the vicinity, either independently or coming together as a group. This behaviour can be one reason behind the high number of inactive wasps' nests.

"Existing literature and evidence from the nests that we have studied confirm this behaviour. Generally, the inactive nest is not used again by the upcoming generation of wasps. These species are perennial nest makers and they do it without much seasonal interference. A polluted environment can be one contributor, but the existing literature suggests that this can also be a part of the colony making process," said Abhishek Mishra, a student who conducted the study. While the high number of inactive nests can be the result of frequent nest-making activity, researchers are still not ruling out the impact of anthropogenic activities such as ongoing construction and increased movement of humans.

To understand the impact of urbanisation on these insects, the group of researchers has decided to monitor these nests further.

"The findings of our study require further probing. We need more data to understand and state with conviction that a high number of inactive nests is due to urbanisation. Wasps are excellent pollinators and thus it becomes imperative that we deduce the reason behind the issue," added Jayashankar.

Researchers are of the view that more and more colleges and universities in an urban setup must take up such studies in their backyards to document urban biodiversity.

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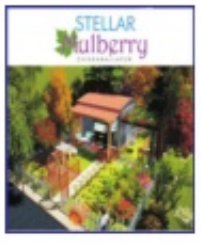

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I, Rajasekhara Kemparaju R/o No 402 The Edge Apt Serenity Layout Kaikondrahalli B'luru-560035 have changed my name to Kemparaj Rajashekar for all purposes.

I, Dhananjaya Gottigere Shivanna R/o A-202 Shreem Breeze Vasanthapura Main Road, B'luru-560061 have changed my name to Indradanush for all purposes.

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Politics of protest, as WFI chief stays defiant

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh says ready to face any probe, but won't resign from post

Wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik speak with the media during their protest at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi on Saturday

The protesting wrestlers on Saturday warned against using their platform for political gains claiming few people are trying to take their fight justice to a different direction even as a defiant WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said he is ready to face "any kind" of probe but won't resign from his post. The wrestlers' statement came on a day many politicians including Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met them at their protest site - Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

On Friday, Delhi Police registered two FIRs against Singh on allegations of sexual harassment levelled by seven women wrestlers. While the first FIR pertained to allegations of a minor wrestler and was registered under the POCSO Act, the second was related to outraging modesty.

Addressing reporters at his residence in Bishnoharpur, about 40 km from Gonda city in Uttar Pradesh, Singh said, "I am completely innocent and have full faith in the Supreme Court and Delhi Police. I am ready to face any kind of investigation." He also said "resigning as president of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is not a big deal for me, but I will not resign as a criminal."

At Jantar Mantar, Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia, who is one of the protesters, said they won't let anyone use their platform for political gains. "A few people are trying to take our movement to a different direction and we strongly refute it. This is a fight for justice for India's daughters," he said, but did not mention whom he was referring to.

> **"We respect all, we will not say anything against their honour, but we should also be respected** – Vinesh Phogat

A group of people was heard raising slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "A lot of people have entered the protest site and trying to project it as a 'bhadkau andolan' but this is fight to save Indian wrestling. People who are here (assembled) are in our support but not for any political gains," said Bajrang.

"Politics and other things are secondary, the dignity and honour of women is first, so please don't indulge in politics. This is a players' movement, so do not link to any political party," he added.

Vinesh Phogat also sought to placate the people in position of power.

"All those who hold constitutional posts (I want to say), that the common man also deserves respect. We respect all, we will not say anything that goes against their honour, but we should also be respected," she told reporters. At Gonda, Singh took a strong exception to Vadra's meeting with the wrestlers saying, "Today it has been seen who is behind this controversy. I have been saying from the beginning that an industrialist and the Congress have a hand in this. They are upset with me." He, however, did not elaborate. – PTI

Galwan Valley hero's widow becomes Army officer

Rekha Singh, the widow of Galwan Valley clash hero Naik Deepak Singh, was inducted into the Indian Army on Saturday after the successful completion of training at the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai.

Rekha Singh, wife of Naik Deepak Singh who was killed in the clash in 2020 and was awarded Vir Chakra (Posthumous), has been commissioned into the Indian Army as a Lieutenant and has been posted to a frontline base along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

Speaking to ANI, Lt Rekha Singh said that she had begun her preparation for the Army after her husband was killed in a clash with the Chinese soldiers. – ANI

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Defamation: Gujarat HC to resume hearing Rahul Gandhi's appeal on May 2

The Gujarat High Court said on Saturday that it will resume hearing the appeal of Congress leader and former MP Rahul Gandhi against his conviction in a criminal defamation case on May 2.

Rahul Gandhi was convicted in March by a metropolitan magistrate's court in Surat for making a remark about the 'Modi surname' during campaigning in Karnataka ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The matter is being heard by Justice Hemant Prachchhak after Justice Geeta Gopi recused herself from the case. Senior Congress leader and lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi is appearing on Rahul Gandhi's behalf.

Rahul Gandhi had filed a criminal revision application in the Gujarat High Court challenging the order of the Surat sessions court declining a stay on his conviction. He was sentenced to two years in jail, which led to the disqualification of his Lok Sabha membership. If the high court allows his plea, it could pave the way for Rahul Gandhi's reinstatement as a Member of Parliament.

After his conviction, the Congress was granted bail and given 30 days to file an appeal.

In his appeal, Rahul Gandhi claimed that the court treated him harshly and was influenced by his status as an MP. The judge disagreed with Rahul Gandhi's argument, stating that he had "failed to show that by not staying the conviction and denying an opportunity to contest the election, an irreversible and irrevocable damage will be caused to him". – IANS

News agency, broadcaster say Twitter accounts suspended

The Indian broadcaster NDTV and the country's ANI news agency both said on Saturday their main Twitter accounts had been locked, without specifying a reason for the suspensions. Searches on Twitter for NDTV's English service account @NDTV and the @ANI handle both produced the message "This account doesn't exist. Try searching for another." Their other accounts appeared to be functional.

ANI editor Smita Prakash tweeted a screenshot of the news agency's handle being locked, with the message from Twitter stating the account "did not meet the age requirements" to be on the platform and would be removed.

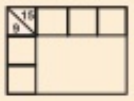
NDTV's other account @ndtvindia tweeted their main handle had been blocked, tagging Twitter CEO Elon Musk's official handle, asking for the suspended account to be restored. The tweet said the main NDTV handle was India's most-followed English-language news handle, while Prakash reiterated that ANI's account had 7.6 million followers prior to the suspensions. An immediate reason for the suspensions was not clarified by either party.

Several international media accounts, including U.S.-based National Public Radio and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) had stopped posting to their Twitter accounts earlier this month after Twitter labelled them "Government-funded." The labels were later dropped. Adani-owned NDTV is a listed company while ANI is private. Neither are known to have any funding from the government. ANI did not respond to Reuters' calls for a comment. NDTV and Twitter could not be immediately reached for a comment on the suspensions. – Reuters

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

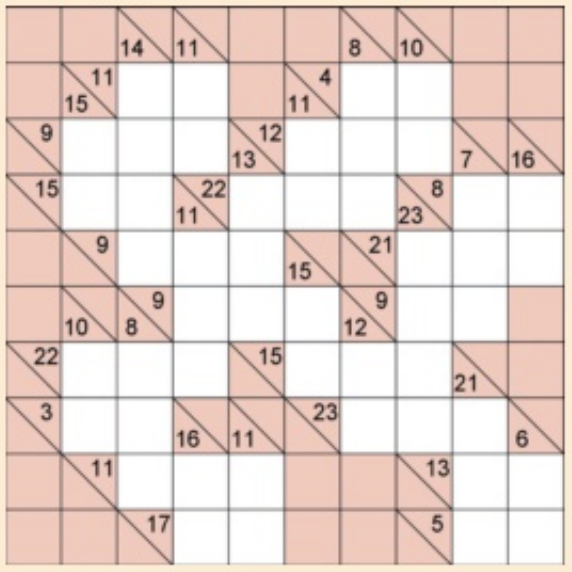
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

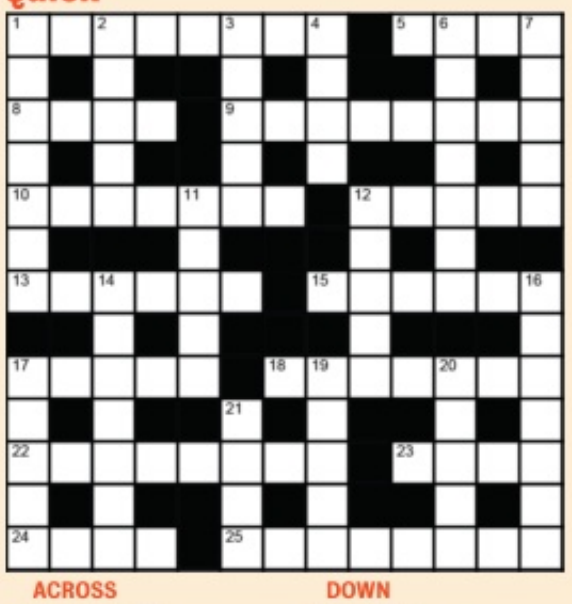


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Stomached (8)
5 Employs (4)
8 Bright shiner (4)
9 Palestinian resistance campaign (8)
10 Yet to be broadcasted (7)
12 ___ work : be a lazy person, in a way? (5)
13 Is suitable or becomes (6)
15 Counterfeit (6)
17 More sensible (5)
18 Self-denying (7)
22 Amusement park on the Bangalore - Mysore highway (8)
23 ___ Gagarin : famous Russian Cosmonaut? (4)
24 Female rabbits (4)
25 An insurgent (8)

DOWN

1 Unsettle (7)
2 African nation (5)
3 Two times (5)
4 Tax on goods (4)
6 Drenching, dipping into water (7)
7 Ferocious fish (5)
11 Revolving aerofoil (5)
12 Whacks or hits hard (5)
14 Furnish with money (7)
16 Ms Padukone of Bollywood (7)
17 Scattered seeds etc. for planting (5)
19 Custom; practice (5)
20 At the same level (5)
21 Developed tadpole (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS P

D OYPWEPYNH XDIIH IYLUVP EU VPY JXV XDU LYPCYLYC VBXYLU XDIIH.

Linemaro

Your words are my food, your breath my wine

Mindchow

If you did not care at all what anyone else thought about you, what would you do differently?

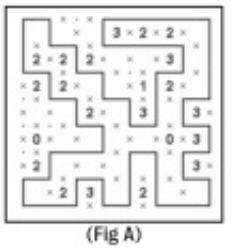
Joke of the day

What do you call a clairvoyant midget who escaped from prison? A small medium at large.

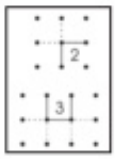
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

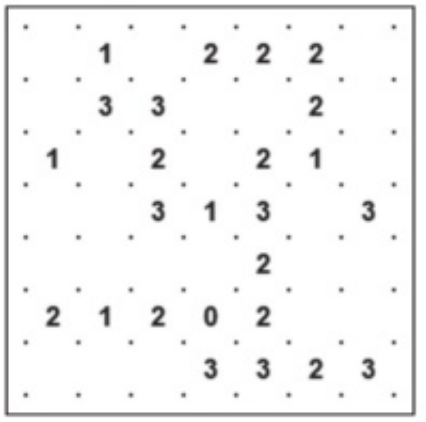


(Fig B) Not Allowed

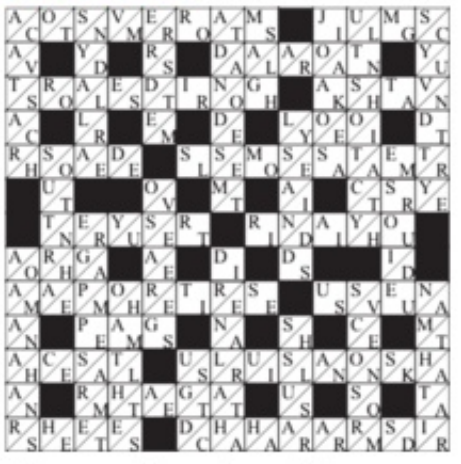
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



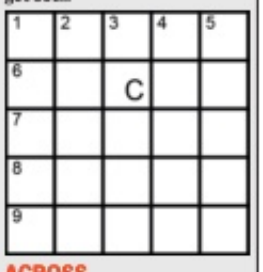
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set....



ACROSS

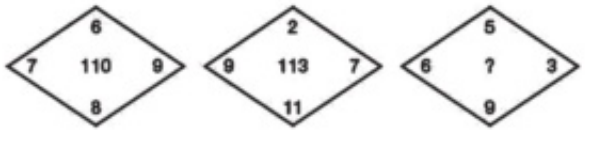
1 Taros; 6 Me EEC;
7 Siren; 8 Gaits;
9 Sawed

DOWN

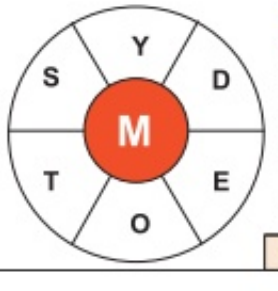
1 Wears; 2 O Mage;
3 Daric; 4 I sees;
5 Stent

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

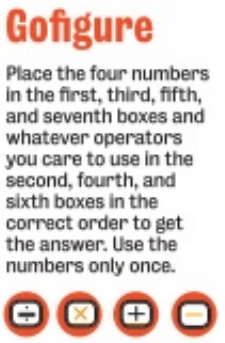
SudokuChallenge

7				5				4
	2		1	3	4		7	
	6						1	
	9	7				4	6	
6				8				1
	4	8				3	9	
	1						8	
	5		3	9	6		4	
4				2				9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 11
4 5 7 9

Medium = 32
3 4 4 4

Hard = 38
3 5 8 5

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

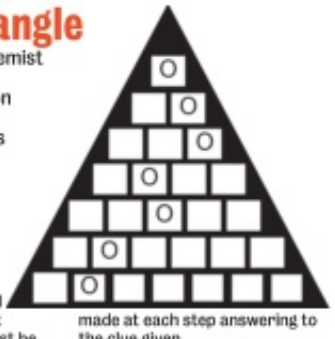
Differences: 1. Tree is larger. 2. Carrot nose is longer. 3. Pocket is missing. 4. Scarf is longer. 5. Pipe is different. 6. Snow is missing from tree branch.

Riddler

A group of four brothers did travel the land, with only one steed shared among the whole band. Though always sure footed, no matter the weather, their mount would go lame if they didn't ride together. When one of the brothers was thrown and misplaced, he was left where he lay and was quickly replaced. When the ride became old and the brothers not needed, to a game for all ages they simply retreated. When many a player would fling them about, and ringing a post was the victory shout. Name us.

Alpha triangle

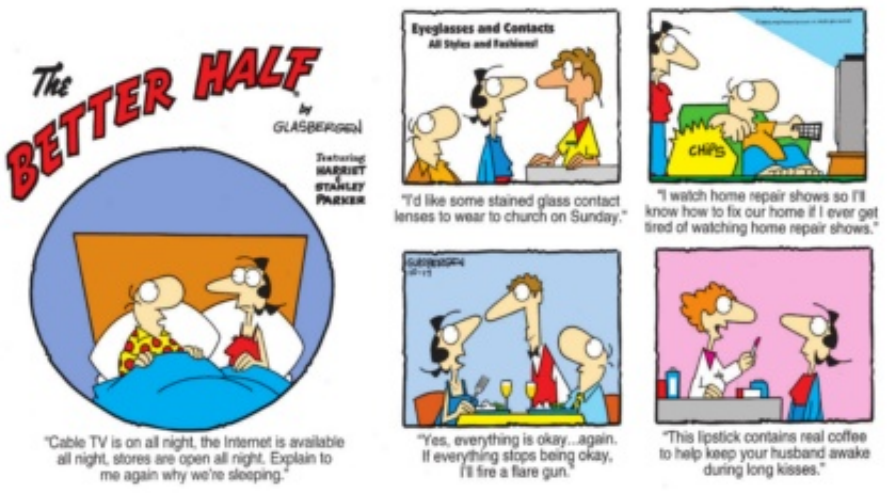
1 Oxygen for the chemist
2 Act
3 Confusing situation
4 Pothole place
5 Just love to pieces
6 Wandered
7 Associate



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"Cable TV is on all night, the Internet is available all night, stores are open all night. Explain to me again why we're sleeping."
Eyeglasses and Contacts
All Styles and Fashions!
"I'd like some stained glass contact lenses to wear to church on Sunday."
CHIPS
"I watch home repair shows so I'll know how to fix our home if I ever get tired of watching home repair shows."
"Yes, everything is okay...again. If everything stops being okay, I'll fire a flare gun."
"This lipstick contains real coffee to help keep your husband awake during long kisses."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
OH, WOW! A HEART-SHAPED ROCK!
MOM LOVES THESE THINGS!
SHE'S GONNA FLIP WHEN SHE SEES THIS!
SHE'LL PROBABLY TAKE US TO DISNEYLAND OR MAKE US GIANT ICE-CREAM SUNDAES JUST TO THANK US.
ANOTHER HEART-SHAPED ROCK. CUTE!
NEVER PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN A ROCK.

AN ACCIDENTAL BITE BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER HAS GIVEN TEENAGER PETER PARKER SUPER POWERS AND TRANSFORMED HIM INTO--
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
A MURDEROUS MASKED MENACE OR A MODERN-DAY CRUSADER?
BEFORE HANGA FEW OF LOVELY BUT LETHAL MAIDENS AFTER HIM...
HE CAN'T POSSIBLY EVADE ALL OUR BLADES!
HE'S FORTUNATE THAT HE STUMBLED INTO THOSE GARBAGE CANS!
GREAT! THEY'RE FALLING FOR IT!
I'VE GOT TO KEEP THESE RED SCARF WEARING NINJAS THINKING I'M JUST CLUMSY--
--INSTEAD OF SUSPECTING I MIGHT BE SPIDER-MAN!
--WHOM TWO OF THEIR PALS ENCOUNTERED WITH IRON FIST?
MAYBE IF I CAN ROUND THAT CORNER AND ESCAPE, THEY'LL GIVE UP ON--
THONNGG
SOMEONE HAS POWERED HIM! BUT WHO--?
YOUTH!
CAPTIVE!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you, and things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in partnership and expect some long-distance travel. You will make a bond with your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may perform your best in the office and have a good bond with your boss. You may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions, and chronic health issues may be cured. You may get good incentives for your work, and disputes with siblings may be resolved. Job seekers may find a new job.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, kids' education may keep you busy, and you may plan for their higher studies. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may think of updating yourself and making a plan for higher studies to get a promotion in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate, and those related to education, consultants, and banking will do better.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and will not be able to take your responsibilities. Your investments may give you some loss, so you are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature. Elders' health may make you upset, and you may plan to reconstruct your house, but it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, disputes with siblings may settle down, which may boost your relationship with them. Your vital force seems to be good, which may help you complete difficult projects easily. You may expand your network after a short work-related trip and help some needy person, which may increase your social status.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy with your family and feel happy to enjoy with them. You may expect some new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may control your expenditures on worthless stuff and buy some worthwhile things that may increase your social status.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be happy and blessed by the moon. You may feel healthy, which may reflect in your way of working. You may perform well in all areas of life, which may improve your prestige. Your concentration may be very good today, and you may take some difficult decisions in your business in terms of growth.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel dull, and your focus may be lost towards your targets. You may hypothetically take some decisions that may be seen beyond reality. Your expectations may be very high, and because of impatience, you may not be able to fulfill them, which may upset you. You are advised to be careful during adventure tours and rush driving.

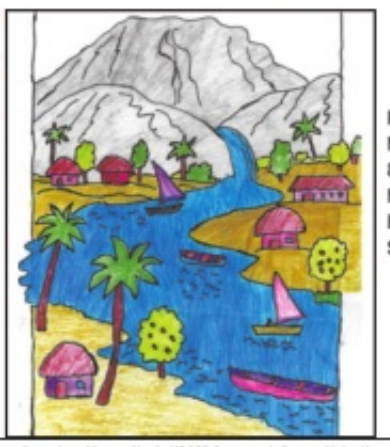
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your past investments may give you good profits, and you may get good results after easy work. Your obstacles may go off now, and your financial status may improve. New sources of income may be there, and couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may achieve success easily.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel happy, and time may be favorable. You may take some important decisions in business that may give you benefits in the near future. You may get rewarded, which may increase your prestige in society, and you may also meet some influential person.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be happy and have good patience, which may reflect in your way of working. You may complete your tasks efficiently and plan to visit some religious place. You may make some donations to a religious place or charity. Love birds may develop trust in their relationship, and you may be able to control your opponents.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which may affect your way of working. There may be some delay in completing your projects, which may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. Lovebirds may have a breakup. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of finding a new job.

KIDZONE



Pratiksha Naveen, 8 Years, New Horizon Public School

Nandini M, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt{(2\cdot2222)\cdot4 / 2222\cdot4}\cdot12 =$
$\sqrt{(2\cdot4\cdot2222\cdot4 / 2222\cdot4)}\cdot12 =$
$\sqrt{(2\cdot4\cdot2222\cdot4\cdot4)}\cdot12 =$
$\sqrt{(2\cdot4\cdot2222\cdot0)}\cdot12 =$
$\sqrt{(2\cdot4\cdot1)}\cdot12 =$
$\sqrt{(2\cdot4)}\cdot12 =$
$(2\cdot4/4)\cdot12 = (2\cdot1)\cdot12 =$
$2\cdot12 = 4096$

QUOTE UNCODE
A genuinely happy person is one who has rendered others happy.

FAST FIVE

R	O	A	S	T
E	M	C	E	E
S	E	R	I	N
A	G	I	S	T
W	A	D	E	S

STRIKE OUT

C	O	N	V	E	R	T	S		J	U	G	S		
A	V		S		A		A	R	O	N		U		
T	O	A	S	T	I	N	G		K	H	A	N		
C		L		E		D		L		E	I		D	
H	O	A	D		S	E	M	E	S	T	E	R		
A		P		A		S		S		E		M		
A	R	H	E	A	T		S	R	I	L	A	N	K	A
S	E	I	T	S		D	H	A	R	A	M	A	S	I

QUICK

D	O	E	S		G	U	E	R	I	L	L	A		
E		C		O		G		A		K				
W	O	N	D	E	R	L	A		Y	U	R	I		
O		O		F		S		O		P				
S	A	N	E	R		A	U	S	T	E	R	E		
	I		O		G					E				
B	E	F	I	T	S		F	O	R	G	E	D		
	O		L		N									
U	N	A	I	R	E	D		S	H	I	R	K		
T	N		C		Y		K		R					
S	T	A	R		I	N	T	I	P	A	D	A		
I	H		W		U		O		H					

MENSA PUZZLE
69: (8 × 9 = 54) + (7 × 8 + (9 × 11 = 99) = 113; (5 × 3 = 15) + (6 • 9 = 54) = 69
110: (2 × 7 = 14) + (5 × 8 = 56) = 110

SUDOKU

4	7	3	8	2	1	6	5	9
8	5	2	3	9	6	1	4	7
9	1	6	7	4	5	2	8	3
1	4	8	2	6	7	3	9	5
6	3	5	4	8	9	7	2	1
2	9	7	5	1	3	4	6	8
3	6	4	9	7	8	5	1	2
5	2	9	1	3	4	8	7	6
7	8	1	6	5	2	9	3	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, Do, Ado, Road, Adore, Roamed, Comrade.

LOOP
Easy
5 − 7 + 9 + 4 = 11
Medium
3 × 4 − 4 × 4 = 32
Hard
8 × 5 + 3 − 5 = 38

KAKURO

RIDDLER Horseshoes

BULL'S EYE
dome, mode, modest, most, tome mote, some, stem.

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Powerful vacuum for whole-home cleaning

Now at ₹52 900*

~~MRP ₹55 900~~

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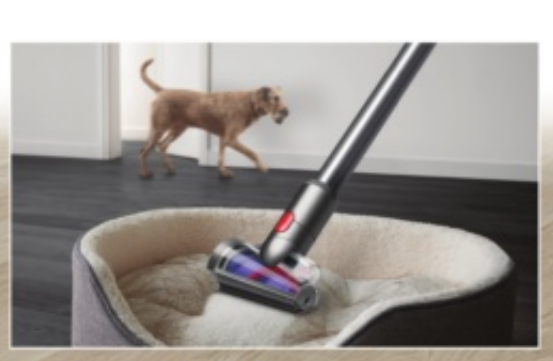
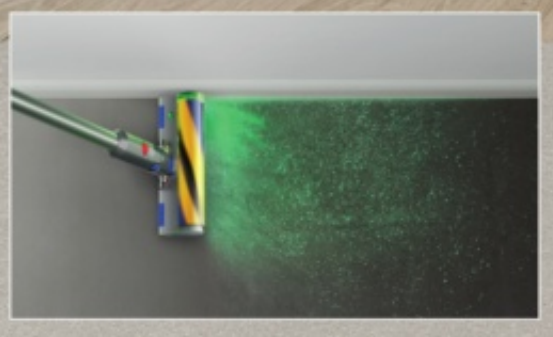
Motorised, edge-to-edge deep cleaning with de-tangling technology.



Hair screw tool

Picks up long hair and pet hair from pet beds, car seats and sofas. Fast.



Illumination reveals hidden dust[1]

A precisely angled beam of light, makes invisible dust visible on hard floors – so you don't miss anything.

*Offer valid on Dyson V12 till stocks last.

[1]Illumination engineered for hard floors. Effectiveness of illumination influenced by ambient light conditions, debris type and surface.

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